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BEHEMOTH

- Nicaragua: Farmers of Mosonte in the Nueva Segovia province of Nicaragua have seen a "prehistoric monster", according to the "Nuevo Diario" newspaper. The monster had the shape of a serpent, only one eye, a length of about 10 metres/33 ft, and a 1 m / 3 ft horn on its head. It left tracks on the ground like those of a tractor (Bild, 5. Nov, p.4, Thüringer Tageblatt, Weimar, 6. Nov). For another Nicaraguan water monster, half Bigfoot, half serpent, see Fortean Times 57, p.23
- Siberia: The water serpent of Sharipovo is destined to become a classic. I have press agencies reports from Reuter, dpa and Tass. I have so many reports I fear I may miss one or two details in this summary. A six metres/20 ft serpentine monster has appeared close to Sharipovo, South Ural, Siberia, Russia. It was seen in a lake, while swimming it held the head high above water. The head resembles that of a sheep, and it also moves on land, leaving clear traces or tracks, which one source (SWF 3) described as "like that of a sledge in a meadow". I recall a folklore story from Loch Ness about the discovery of sledge-like tracks, quoted in Michell/Rickards: Phenomena. Cf. this detail also with the tractor-like tracks the Nicaraguan monster left.. The Siberian monster's body had the size of a log. One of the witnesses, Tass reported, had managed to take a picture of the creature, though I've not seen prints so far. The monster, in keeping with giant catfish legends from Europe, has eaten all fish and frogs in the lake (is it a small one, then?). Old people of Sharipovo recall, Tass says, that about 50 years ago, a prehistoric fish was caught in the lake, experts had believed it to be extinct. Sources: SWF 3, 20. Nov, taz, 22. Nov, p.20f; Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 22. Nov, p.9c; The Times, London, 21. Nov, p.12h; Stuttgarter Zeitung, 7. Dec, p.114; Bild, 21. Nov, p.12 (gives the length, like SWF 3, as 7 m/23 ft); Super Zeitung, Berlin, 21. Nov (says creatures colour was green, size 6 - 7 m); Volksstimme, Magdeburg, 22. Nov. (dates TASS report to Nov 21.); Jeversches Wochenblatt, Jever, 22. Nov; Dresdener Morgenpost, 21. Nov; Schweriner Volkszeitung, 26. Nov.; Krefelder Zeitung, 22. Nov.; Die Union, Dresden, 22. Nov.; Wilhelmshavener Zeitung, 22. Nov.; Nordwest-Zeitung, Oldenburg, 22. Nov.; Abendzeitung München, 22. Nov.; Der Tagesspiegel, 22. Nov. I have already pointed out that the fish and frog eating monster sounds like folklore, also, the log-like creature with a sheep's head looking like a floating tree trunk and leaving sledge-like tracks on the shore is actually a old European folktale, a version located at the Swiss Rotsee and dated 1599 is quoted in Meurger's Lake Monster Traditions, p.150.
- Auyan Tepui: This table mountain in Venezuela was used in Conan Doyle's Lost World novel, and there have been recent dinosaur sightings claims. I've mentioned several in recent Bilks: sightings by Alejandro Laime, in 1975, and a sighting and a supposed capture by a crew lead by Volker Arzt of the German TV crew of Terra X and GEO Magazin. Now, "IWZ" 48/1991 has a report roughly identical with the GEO report mentioned in last BILK (IWZ, 30.11.91), also, German TV channel had two parts on the Tepuis on Dec 1 and Dec 8 (ZDF). The TV report mentioned the capture of a young dinosaur (has now been identified as common lizard) and a sighting of three swimming, dog-sized dinos during the expedition (the GEO report, mentioning this sighting, says it took place several years ago). Modern marketing is another monster, and so we now have a book accompanying the TV report (Ed. Hans Helmut Hillrichs: Terra X. Von den Steppen der Mongolen zu den Inseln über dem Regenwald. Published by C. Bertelsmann, 1991). I have not seen a copy so far, perhaps it includes additional reports.
- Lake Okanagan. Beautiful British Columbia (Victoria, BC), Fall 1991, pp. 32-39, has an article on BC monsters, including a reproduction of what expert Arlene Gaal calls "the best photo yet of Ogopogo". It was shot by Mike Paskal of Fort McMurray, Alberta. He saw "a snakelike object, 80-90 feet long!" The picture sure is real, but simply shows a boat wake! I don't know how ogopogo looks, but BC cryptozoologists surely look stupid. The BC Cryptozoology Club spotted several boat wakes in 1990 and proudly published them as monsters in an issue of the ISC Journal. It is disappointing to see CZ's standards being even below that of "scientific ufology".

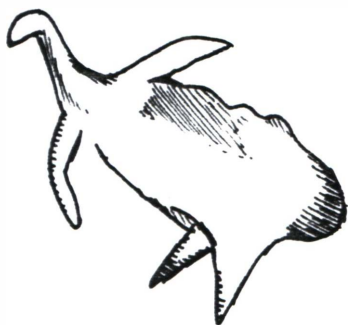
- Bibliography: Strange #8: large part devoted to Doc Shiel's monster photos, p. 37 L Ness & Boleskine House, p.34: L Ness, Ogopogo, Bunyip, INFO Journal 64, p.11 Bunyip, p.15 Patagonia lake monsters, p.29 L Erie monster sightings last year, p.35 review of Holiday's Goblin Universe (a good review!!)

ISIS

- Bibliography: Neue Zürcher Zeitung 11 Oct, p.41: mermaids, melusine, uдинe and nymphs in German literature and art; Strange 8, p.8-23, 44: stories of merman-like extraterrestrials in Sth America, once more referring to the silly myth that the Japanese mythical creature Kappa, a frog-humanoid and water spirit, was an extra-terrestrial astronaut in ancient times.
- Abduction by merman: Raymond E Fowler's Die Wächter (orig. title: The Watchers) was published in Oct 1991 by Bastei-Lübbe, Bergisch Gladbach. On p.56, Betty Ann Andreasson Luca tells how she was abducted by ETs to help them steal the foetus child of another abducted woman, leading to an ET/human interbreeding. Sounds like Hopkin's genetic engineering, but...I have an identical folktale from Laibach, once in southern Austria, now, under its Slav name Ljubljana capital of the independent Republic of Slovenia, in which the water-man takes the role of the ETs. In July 1547, a dance was held at Laibach, and the girls noticed an especially beautiful young man. He had a "very soft hand and was cold" but he took one of the girls and dragged her into the river. At Breulieb near Saalbach, Austria, in 1630, a woman told a priest when she was dying what her mother had told her. Both had been midwives, and mom one day got a visit from a man who asked her for help. It was dark, but she followed him. The man blindfolded her and led her to a lake. He took a stick and hit it on the surface, which opened exposing a staircase. Down they went until they came to a room. Inside was a woman in labour, who had been abducted by the water-man years before. The midwife helped the lady deliver the child, but the merman ate it after three days. (Grimm: Deutsche Sagen, Winkler, Munich 1956, p.71 and 74). No connection between both stories is implied by quoting both, only: what ETs do now with innocent American housewives the waterman did with women in the Austria/Slavonia region some hundred years ago. For more monster-UFO connections, see also the USO section.

LEVIATHAN

- Marseille: In Oct, a grotto was discovered below the water mark at the French mediterranean coast. It contained beautiful pictures, and the "Rheinpfalz" (22 Oct) said one showed a penguin. Impossible! Penguins do only live in the Antarctic. Luckily, "Stern" magazine 31. Oct. p.32 -39 published a selection of the cave drawings, including the mysterious one. The Stern says it shows a "fabulous animal, a mixture of a seal in the front with a capricorn behind". I reproduce a sketch of the animal to the left, judge for yourself. Fabulous animals and cartoon animals are well known from cave paintings, the most famous being the unicorn of Lascaux cave. It will not take long before another "scientific cryptozoologist" will come forward with a match between the cave drawing and some fossil.



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- British Columbia: Beautiful B C, Fall 91, also notes a new sea serpent sighting (credit: Michael Reichelt): "most recent was a monster sighted last year (1990) in Victoria's Gorge waterway and immediately nicknamed 'Gorgeous'. More than sighted, he was discovered swimming along with writer Alison Griffiths, who described him as

'almost round, medium grey in color, with purple blotches.' (It was later thought to be either two harbor seals or one large sea lion)."

- Bibliography: Strange 8 has lots on Morgawr and the Mary F pix, incl. one item on Morgawr's past.

KRAKEN

- New Zealand: "Scars from a giant kraken. A sperm whale which has its body covered by scars of a fight against a giant squid has been observed off New Zealand. It is believed that the tentacles of giant squids can reach a length of 10 m and the body a length of 12 - 15 m. AFP." (Die Rheinpfalz, 13. Nov)

USO

- Lagarfljot: This is Iceland's most famous monster lake. According to B. Steiger's Project Blue Book (Ballantine, NY 1976, p.361) one of the Air Force UFOs was sighted on 24 Aug 1954 by many civilians over "Lagarfljot River" (wrong spelling) The lake serpent as a treasure guardian was the first incarnation of the modern Lagarfljot monster, see Alan Boucher: Elves, Trolls and Elemental Beings. Iceland Review Library: Reykjavík 1981, p.80/81). — One of the last Bिल्ks, I mentioned the ghost lights of Loch Sanais, close to L Ness. Andreas Trottmann sent me a clipping from the Inverness Courier 20 Nov 1990, which shows L na Sanais was an artificial pond dug out during the construction of the Caledonian Canal between the Loch & Inverness, it now is under the Golf Course. Fits in neatly with Devereux' Earth Lights theories.

I had to leave out 5 more shorter stories, which I will include in next Bilk - if this flood of reports continues, it will probably be a double-number again. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.